



STATE OF WEST VIRGINIA  
OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL  
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# Press Release

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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **Attorney General Darrell McGraw Awards Funding to Jefferson County FOCUS Coalition for Prevention Programs from the Purdue Pharma Settlement Funds**

Charleston - Attorney General Darrell McGraw today announced the distribution of fifty-thousand dollars to the Jefferson County FOCUS Coalition for educational, recreational, and club-oriented prevention programs in area schools and the community. This money comes from the third installment in the ten-million dollar settlement with Purdue Pharma, the manufacturer of the drug Oxycontin.

FOCUS began in 1990 through the efforts of citizens concerned over open air drug markets and its primary focus early on was neighborhood cleanup. Programs expanded to include education and prevention of drug, alcohol, and tobacco abuse for youth and families. In 2002, FOCUS added a violence prevention component to its programming and began to work more closely with local schools. The When Youth Create program, designed to use the arts to foster positive behavior in youth, began in 2005. FOCUS also sponsors a variety of safe and drug free events in the community such as teen dances, youth music venues, and prevent drunk driving courses.

Drug and alcohol prevention programs have been successfully used to save taxpayer dollars and to educate youth and adults on the consequences of abusing substances. They offer an array of educational programs giving community members the necessary guidance, structure and support to fight drug and alcohol abuse.

“Public outreach organizations like FOCUS provide our communities with preventative programming which helps to make our communities safer places to live. The opportunity to reach our youth and help them make better decisions is a positive factor in the success of our communities. The long term savings in their personal lives, as well as law enforcement, incarceration, and rehabilitation costs is substantial,” said McGraw.

Purdue Pharma settlement agreed to pay West Virginia ten-million dollars over four years. The bulk of the money including the one-million dollars from this year’s distribution has been used to operate Day Report Centers across West Virginia and help communities fight the scourge of drug abuse that wrecks a community. This funding will serve more than twenty counties across West Virginia.

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